

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention provides an assay method for detecting infectious prion protein in a sample from a mammalian subject, said method comprising: obtaining a prion protein containing sample from said subject; contacting said sample with an agent which serves to digest non-infectious prion protein and to partially digest infected prion protein to yield a prion protein polypeptide residue; contacting the digested sample with an antibody capable of binding to a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence Vc (Gly-Gly-Gly-Trp)-Gly-Gln-Gly-Gly-R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>2</sub>-His-R<sub>3</sub>-Gln-Trp-Asn-Lys-Pro-Lys-R<sub>4</sub>-Lys-Pro-Lys-Thr-R<sub>5</sub>-R<sub>6</sub>-Lys (-His-R<sub>7</sub>-Ala-Gly) (Vc) and detecting conjugates of said antibody and said prion protein polypeptide residue; characterized in that the detection of said conjugates comprises chemical, biological or biochemical amplification of a detectable species and detection of the amplified species.